

rayneri are the most common species, which frequently make havoc of the nets, thereby causing serious loss to the fishermen, not only by the damage to the nets but also by the loss of all the enclosed fish, which quickly find the rents made by the Sharks and escape through them. I am of course speaking of seine-nets, which are the only kind in general use here. Günther's species is the half-grown fish, which does not go to the sea but remains in our bays and estuaries, and is therefore about a month earlier on the spawning-grounds, and consequently in the market, where it is called "Hard-gut Mullet." These fishes after spawning accompany the remnant of the older fishes to the sea, and return during the following equinox as "Sea-Mullet."

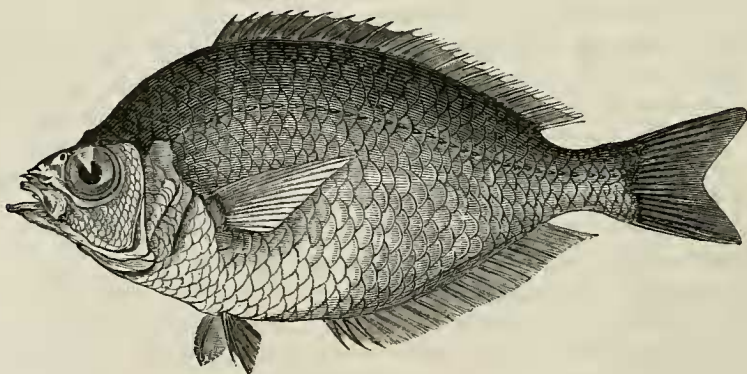
5. On a new Genus of Percidæ. By J. DOUGLAS-OGILBY.
(Communicated by F. DAY, C.I.E., F.Z.S.)

[Received November 7, 1887.]

CHTHAMALOPTERYX, gen. nov.

Branchiostegals six; pseudobranchiæ present. Body oblong-ovate, compressed. Mouth protractile. Preorbitals with a blunt bony protuberance in front; preopercles entire. A band of small teeth in the jaws. One dorsal fin very slightly notched, the length of the soft portion greater than that of the spinous, having the formula $\frac{9}{17}$; anal $\frac{3}{17}$; caudal forked. Scales of moderate size, cycloid, deciduous.

From the above diagnosis it is plain that this proposed genus is closely allied to *Gerres*; and it is in fact founded on a species which was described some years ago by Count Castelnau under the name of *Gerres melbournensis*, from specimens obtained probably in the



Chthamaloptyx melbournensis.

Melbourne fish-market. No other examples seem to have been noticed, at least none have been recorded that I am aware of, since his time, but during the last eighteen months the Australian Museum

has received from different sources two perfect specimens agreeing in every respect with Castelnau's description, both of them having been caught in the Gulf of St. Vincent. These two examples, from which the description is taken, measure respectively $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $5\frac{1}{6}$ inches, and the type specimen is about the same length, which seems to be the full size to which it grows. It is worthy of mention that Count Castelnau's original type, a dried half skin, was presented by him to this Museum, where it is still preserved. Appended is a full description of the species.

CHTHAMALOPTERYX MELBOURNENSIS.

Gerres melbournensis, Casteln. Proc. Zool. Soc. Vict. i. 1872, p. 158; Macleay, Descr. Catal. Austr. Fish. i. p. 80.

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L. l. 37. L. tr. 4/10?

Length of head 4 to $4\frac{1}{4}$, of caudal fin $4\frac{3}{5}$ to $4\frac{4}{5}$, height of body $2\frac{5}{6}$ in the total length. *Eye*: diameter $\frac{3}{8}$ of the length of the head, $\frac{5}{6}$ of a diameter from the end of the snout, and $\frac{6}{7}$ of a diameter apart. The groove for the process of the intermaxillary bones is ovate and short, extending but little beyond the anterior margin of the orbit. The interorbital space is slightly convex; the upper profile of the head is concave, the snout, however, being obliquely flat, while there is a slight protuberance above the middle of the eye. The maxilla reaches to the vertical from the anterior margin of the orbit; its posterior edge is concave. Preorbitals with a bony point directed forwards. *Teeth*: a broad band of minute curved teeth in the jaws, the outer row somewhat enlarged. *Fins*: Dorsal fin scarcely notched; the length of the base of the spinous portion is three fourths of that of the soft, and the space between the dorsal and caudal is one third of that between the dorsal and snout, its origin is above the last quarter of the opercle, and its termination a little in front of that of the anal fin. The spines are of moderate strength and gradually increase in height to the last two or three, which are equal, and about half the length of the head; the rays are subequal in height to the posterior spines. The anal fin commences beneath the anterior dorsal ray, and the length of its base is one fourth more than the length of the head; the spines are much stronger than those of the dorsal, the third the longest, rather more than a third of the length of the head. The origin of the ventral is beneath the posterior angle of the base of the pectoral; it does not quite extend to the vent, and is four sevenths of the length of the head, while its spine is five sixths of the length of the adjacent ray. The pectoral fin is elongate, the fourth and fifth rays being the longest, extending to the vertical from the third anal spine, and slightly shorter than the head. Caudal forked. *Scales*: interorbital space, snout, and preorbital absolutely scaleless, punctured by numerous small round pores; posterior nostril twice the size of anterior, placed very close to the eye. Scales of the cheek rather smaller than those of the body, extending on to the mandible. *Colours*:

silvery, the upper parts with a blue, the sides with a bronze tinge; the spinous portion of the dorsal is pale purple, the soft portion, the anal, and the caudal yellowish; pectorals and ventrals pinkish, the cheeks and opercles being also washed with the same colour. Irides golden.

6. On a new Caucasian Goat (*Capra severtzowi*, sp. n.). By
Dr. M. MENZBIER, C.M.Z.S., Professor in the University of Moscow.

[Received November 15, 1887.]

In the lately published memoir of Mr. Eug. Büchner, "Zur Geschichte der kaukasischen Ture"¹ we have a carefully prepared treatise upon the present state of our knowledge of *Capra caucasica* and *Capra cylindricornis* (*Ægoceros pallasii*), as well as of their distribution and synonymy. But it seems that I am more fortunate than Mr. Büchner in the solution of the question what is the *Capra caucasica* of G黶ldenstaedt, who very positively speaks on the "cornua" of this Goat as "retorsum et extrorsum arcuata, apice denuo introrsum vergentia." During the last two years I have had an opportunity of receiving many skins, horns, and skulls of the Mountain-Goat from the northern Caucasus, and amongst them I have found at last the true *Capra caucasica* of G黶ldenstaedt. It is a Mountain-Goat inhabiting the region between Elbruz and Dykhtau, and only mentioned by Mr. Dinnik in his pamphlet on the Caucasian Mountain-Goat. I do not understand either how such an excellent naturalist could maintain that the Mountain-Goat from the central part of the northern Caucasus is the same as the Mountain-Goat from the western half of this region, nor his conclusion that the western Mountain-Goat is the true *Capra caucasica* of G黶ldenstaedt. In the western and eastern or central Mountain-Goat of the northern Caucasus we have two quite different animals—the central being the true *Capra caucasica* of G黶ldenstaedt, in many respects assimilating to *Æg. pallasii*; the western, I think, being a species new to science, but erroneously described by Mr. Dinnik and Mr. Büchner as *Capra caucasica*. For this western Caucasian Goat I propose the name *Capra severtzowi*, in honour of my friend Mr. Severtzow, to whom we are under great obligations for our knowledge of the different Wild Goats and Sheep.

The subjoined descriptions of the Caucasian Mountain-Goats may serve to distinguish these two very different animals.

CAPRA CAUCASICA, G黶ld.

This Goat is a very graceful, handsome, and powerful animal, a little smaller than *Capra severtzowi*, but with enormous black horns.

¹ Published in the Mém. Acad. Sc. St. Pétersbourg, sér. vii. t. xxxv. No. 8 (1887).